

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 19, 2004, has been received and carefully noted. The Applicants note the withdrawal of the Office Action dated May 6, 2004. The Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and the following remarks, which are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in claim 7.

By this Amendment, claim 7 has been canceled and claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 7. No new matter has been added. Support for amendments to the claims can be found at least in paragraphs 0053 and 0065 of the specification. Claims 1, 5 and 6 are pending and respectfully submitted for consideration.

Claim 1 was objected to for a minor informality. Responsive to this objection, the Applicants have amended claim 1.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. As claim 7 has been canceled the rejection is now rendered moot. The Applicants submit that all claims are in compliance with U.S. patent practice.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Joshita (U.S. Patent No. 5,971,094) in view of Hovanchak (EPO 0 279 034 A1). As claim 1 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 7, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited prior art.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Joshita in view of Hovanchak and further in view of Shimizu (U.S. Patent No.

4,766,970). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Joshita in view of Hovanchak and further in view of Sugino et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,927,429, "Sugino"). The Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5 and 6 are allowable based on their dependency from allowable claim 1.

In view of the above, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1, 5 and 6 and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing Attorney Dkt. No. 101154-00009.**

Respectfully submitted,



Rhonda L. Barton
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 47,271

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX PLLC
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel: (202) 857-6000
Fax: (202) 638-4810

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